

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-05 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2511

UNCLAS LIMA 10022

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PE, SU

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT

1. AT A NOVEMBER 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, FONMIN DE LA PUENTE REPLIED TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION THAT PERU HAD ACCEPTED (OR IS ACCEPTING) THE SOVIET OFFER TO SELL COMBAT AIRCRAFT (THE SU-22). TEXTUALLY, GOVERNMENT-OWNED LA CRONICA QUOTED HIM: "WHEN WE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO RENEW THE EQUIPMENT OF THE PERUVIAN AIR FORCE, KNOWN SUPPLIER COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE, ENGLAND, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WERE INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR BEST EQUIPMENT AND FINANCING. AFTER SOME MONTHS, THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT ANSWEREE OFFERING VERY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS WAS THE SOVIET UNION AND WE ACCEPTED (ACEPTAMOS) THE PROPOSAL."

2. DE LA PUENTE WAS FURTHER QUOTED: "IF YOU ARE OFFERED FAVORABLE CONDITIONS YOU ACCEPT THEM, BECAUSE AIRPLANES HAVE NO IDEOLOGY". HE ADDED THAT TO FLY THE AIRPLANES ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS PILOT TRAINING, AS WAS DONE IN ENGLAND UPON ACQUIRING THE CANBERRAS AND IN FRANCE UPON ACQUIRING THE MIRAGES.

3. COMMENT: THIS PUTS THE GOP LINE IN A NUTSHELL: PERU NEEDED TO RENEW ITS COMBAT AIRCRAFT; ASKED FOR BIDS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES; ACCEPTED THE BEST OFFER, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE SOVIET, UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHOUT REGARD TO IDEALOGY; AND SEES SOVIET INFLUENCE AS LIMITED

TO PILOT TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

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Message Attributes

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